

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3090

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: ANDHRA AND ORISSA: THE VIEW FROM NEW DELHI

REFS: A) MADRAS 199, B) CALCUTTA 407

1. SUMMARY: AS ANDHRA CALMS DOWN AND CONGRESS SEPARATISTS CONFER WITH PRIME MINISTER, AND ORISSA PLACED UNDER PRESIDENT'S RULE, ACTION HAS SHIFTED TO NEW DELHI. PRIME MINISTER, ON DEFENSIVE OVER NATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, HAS LOST TWO ROUNDS IN POLITICAL GAME PLAN OF ENHANCING STATE GOVERNMENT STABILITY THROUGH HAND- PICKED, WEAK CHIEF MINISTERS. STILL FORMIDABLE, SHE NOW ENGAGED IN HOLDING ACTION TO KEEP DAMAGE FROM SPREADING TO OTHER STATES BEFORE MONSOON AND EARLY 1974 UTTAR PRADESH ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ANDHRA PRADESH: ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, WITHDRAWAL OF ARMY UNITS, AND PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC OFFER TO DISCUSS QTE ALL ASPECTS UNQTE OF ANDHRA PROBLEM HAVE REDUCED VIOLENCE (REF A), WHICH TO GOI WAS PREREQUISITE TO TALKS. ANDHRA CONGRESS SEPARATIST MP'S DROPPED THREAT TO SIT WITH OPPOSITION, AGREED HAVE TOP LEADER B. V. SUBHA REDDY GO TO DELHI FOR TALKS. HE MET MARCH 6-7 WITH PRIME MINISTER, PARTY
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PRESIDENT, AND MAJOR CABINET FIGURES (CHAVAN, RAM, AHMED, ETC), SOME OF WHOM RUMORED PLAYING ANTI- GANDHI GAME. HE PRESSED FOR EARLY BIFURCATION, SEEMED AMENABLE TO SUGGESTED REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE ANDARAS' DESIRES. PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY REITERATED PROMISE MAINTAIN OPEN MIND, UNDERLINED NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY IN VIEW FLUID INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, AND URGED SEPARATISTS NOT ADD TO GOI BURDENS. TALKS WITH TELENGANA SEPARATISTS NOW IN PROSPECT. THUS, PROVIDED CALM CONTINUES, PROLONGED THREE- WAY MATING DANCE NOW BEGUN, CONSUMMATION OF WHICH FOR PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE PRESERVATION OF CONGRESS STRENGTH AMONG ANDHRAS, NOT NECESSARILY PRESERVATION OF ONE ANDHRA STATE. MANY PREDICT STATE SPLIT, PERHAPS EARLY NEXT YEAR.

3. ORISSA: PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT' S RULE AND DISSOLUTION OF STATE ASSEMBLY MARCH 3 (REF B) PROVOKED VERY SHARP REACTION IN PARLIAMENT MARCH 5. IN RAJYA SABHA, GIRI' S ACCEPTANCE OF PRESIDENT' S RULE WAS DESCRIBED AS QTE UNCONSTITUTIONAL UNQTE, QTE PARTISAN UNQTE, ETC. CONGRESS- O LEADER MAHAVIR TYAGI, FORMER UNION MINISTER, SUGGESTED GIRI' S IMPEACHMENT (COMMENT: NO CHANCE). ENTIRE OPPOSITION (BARRING CPI) WALKED OUT. IN LOK SABHA, SWATANTRA LEADER PILOO MODY SPARRER WITH ANGRY PRIME MINISTER OVER PROPRIETY OF DISSOLUTION. FAILING OBTAIN VOTES FOR ADJOURNMENT MOTION DEBATE, OPPOSITION WALKED OUT. ALSO IN DELHI, MRS SATPATHY HOPES PRESERVE POSITION, EITHER AS LEADER OF STATE CONGRESS MACHINERY OR BY ENTERING LIK SABHA (HER HUSBAND WOULD RESIGN HIS ORISSA SEAT TO LET HER CONTEST HIS SEAT). ALMOST HALF OF ORISSA CONGRESS MP' S HAVE PUBLICLY URGED THAT PERSONALLY UNPOPULAR SATPATHY LEAVE STATE LEADERSHIP. PRIVATELY, LEADING MP TOLD EMBOFF THAT WITH OR WITHOUT LEFTIST, EX- COMMUNIST SATPATHY, CONGRESS APPEARS STAND LITTLE CHANCE OF WINNING STATE ELECTIONS. OPPOSITION WANTS ELECTIONS SOONEST; CONGRESS, IN EARLY 1974 (SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH UTTAR PRADESH). PRESS REACTION TO DISSOLUTION WAS NEGATIVE. SOME PAPERS FELT THAT OPPOSITION MINISTRY WOULD HAVE BEEN UNSTABLE, BUT NEARLY ALL AGREED PATNAIK SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN CHANCE. EVEN PRO- CPI PATRIOT SHED FEW TEARS OVER SATPATHY' S FALL.

4. OVERVIEW: PRIME MINISTER CAMPAIGNED IN 1972 FOR QTE SECOND MANDATE UNQTE FOR STABILITY IN STATES AND RECEIVED IT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFLECTING DESIRE PROJECT DYNAMIC, PROGRESSIVE IMAGE AND FEAR

OF POWERFUL PROVINCIAL BOSSES, SHE ENGINEERED SELECTION OF OWN
NOMINEES TO LEAD GOVERNMENTS IN MOST STATES, INCLUDING THOSE
(LIKE ORISSA) WHERE DEFECTION, NOT ELECTION, PRODUCED CONGRESS
MAJORITY. SOME NOMINEES (RAY IN WEST BENGAL, SETHI IN
MADHYA PRADESH) APPEAR TO BE BUILDING LOCAL POWER BASES;
MOST OTHERS REMAIN HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON PRIME MINISTER; TWO
HAVE FALLEN. QTE AFTER NANDINI, WHO? UNQTE IS QUESTION
NOW HEARD IN DELHI, WITH ASSAM' S SINHA AND RAJASTHAN' S KHAN
AS LEADING CANDIDATES. THOUGH STILL VERY FORMIDABLE, PRIME MIN-
ISTER APPEARS TEMPORIZING, SEEKING THROUGH DRAWN- OUT TALKS TO
LIMIT DAMAGE TO ORISSA AND ANDHRA. IF SHE CAN AVOID MORE TROUBLE
UNTIL MONSOON, SHE AND PARTY WILL HAVE SUFFERED ONLY MINOR
INJURY; IF MORE STATE GOVERNMENTS FALL AND/ OR MONSOON IS WEAK,
UTTAR PRADESH ELECTIONS WILL REVEAL TRUE EXTENT OF DAMAGE.
SUSPECT PRIME MINISTER (AND CONGRESS) THANKFUL NATIONAL
ELECTIONS NOT DUE UNTIL 1976.
MOYNIHAN

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